

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

/, (Currently amended) A seal configuration, comprising:

a body that contains internal pressure, the body having an opening with inwardly tapered peripheral sidewalls;

a closure that closes the opening, the closure serving as a door adapted to be opened and closed at will, the closure having an attachment portion larger than the opening and an axially projecting stopper portion that fits closely within the opening, the stopper portion having an endless peripheral seal groove extending in spaced relation around the axis in which is positioned a peripheral seal that sealingly engages the tapered peripheral sidewalls of the body in interference fit relation, thereby conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewalls, the seal groove providing a planar containment surface; and

a backing ring of pliable memory retaining material sheltered from internal pressure within the body by the peripheral seal and positioned between the peripheral seal groove and the attachment portion of the closure, the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation and conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure, such that when the peripheral seal deforms in response to an increase in internal pressure within the body and extrusion gaps begin to form between the attachment portion of the closure and the body, the peripheral seal is extruded by pressure applying a force solely in an axial direction normal to the planar containment surface against the backing ring, that portion of the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body plastically deforming by changing shape and applying sealing pressure at the extrusion gaps to prevent the peripheral seal from entering the extrusion gaps.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{LLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100